

# THE NATURE CONSERVANCY

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CONNECTICUT CHAPTER NEWSLETTER

AUGUST, 1964

"The tapestry of science has become so intricate that there are few, if any scientists who are not 'laymen' outside the small area of their specialty. Being a layman, therefore, is not a fatal handicap in the reassessment of what is happening to science and scientists. Indeed, in some ways it may be an advantage, for to a degree the future course of science depends on an understanding not of complex technical content but of science's basic purposes as an expression of a deep human need to know."

David E. Lilienthal in "Change, Hope and The Bomb", 1963

## NATURAL AREAS IN CONNECTICUT

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a three-way folder entitled "The Natural Areas of Connecticut." We hope this bulletin will acquaint the membership with the Natural Areas we do have in our State. Additional copies may be had from Mrs. John M. Hamilton, our Chapter Chairman.

For those who like greater detail and information, the Chapter is pleased to announce that The Connecticut Natural Areas Report is now available. This 33 page brochure was prepared by the Chapter in order to place information in writing both as to the nature and location of all the Natural Areas established in the State as of May 1964 (not just those affiliated with The Nature Conservancy). This detailed report, in which some 34 established Natural Areas have been mapped and described, is the first complete listing of such for our State.

It is hoped this Report will be useful to the various agencies and individuals in the State concerned with natural resources and development. It is also hoped that with this information available, that a minimum amount of future encroachments will occur in these areas in state and local planning.

Copies may be obtained from Dr. Richard H. Goodwin, Connecticut College, New London, Connecticut. (Please enclose 50 cents per copy to cover handling charges - made payable to the Chapter.)

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## ATOMIC POWER PLANT ON THE CONNECTICUT RIVER - WHAT WILL BE ITS EFFECTS?

A Fact and Information Sheet has been enclosed with this Newsletter upon a matter which is the concern of all conservationists in the State of Connecticut.

The Connecticut Yankee Atomic Power Co., Inc., with its plans for an atomic power plant in the middle of our State at Haddam Neck on the Connecticut River, raises to the fore new aspects in pollution: thermal pollution of the River, and nuclear pollution, both of the River by liquid wastes and of the air by gaseous wastes. These problems concern not only our State's Public Areas along the Connecticut River (and this includes our State Parks) but also the protection of our citizens, our wildlife and our natural resources.

Please read the Fact Sheet carefully; attend the September 17th hearing if you can; contact ConVAC if you are concerned (Atty. Julian Rosenberg, Chairman, East Haddam, Conn.); and express your thoughts in person at this hearing or in a letter to the State Water Resources Commission (State Office Building, Hartford, Conn.)

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#### THE LANGE TRACT - A NEW BIRD SANCTUARY

One of the sites used by the National Audubon Society for its annual bird census has been given as a Natural Area to the Connecticut Chapter of The Nature Conservancy.

This 2½ acre tract has marvelous bird cover, being mostly swampy thicket with a stream running through. It is located on the East side of Taconic Road in Greenwich. This bird sanctuary was a gift from Mrs. J. Carvel Lange of Greenwich.

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#### AKELEY TRACT - A HIGHWAY ENCROACHMENT

The first natural area acquired in Connecticut by The Nature Conservancy has been involved in a highway condemnation suit. Representatives of the Connecticut Chapter have put much effort into trying to prevent the Town of Groton from taking a swarth from the edge of the Akeley Tract in Mystic, in order to bring a town road up to legislatively set minimum standards.

During the course of several conferences held to try to prevent this damage, it was apparent that there was little recognition of the value of a Natural Area both by the Town and in the Court procedures. Though unsuccessful in preventing the loss of a strip of land next to the road, by negotiation the Conservancy representatives were able to have the drainage plans revised so as to cause far less destruction to the Natural Area.

Again, this event, like others, shows the general lack of understanding on the part of most public officials of the importance of Natural Areas. To destroy them, even in part however small, is to do an injustice to the general public now and for following generations. We can only hope that with the increasing awareness of the need for conservation, the understanding will come to our public officials of the importance of preserving natural areas given by dedicated people to dedicated organizations.

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#### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRANT

Three members of our Connecticut Chapter have jointly received a Grant from the National Science Foundation for the study of the effects of beaver on the vegetation on the Beckley Bog.

Dr. Frank E. Egler, Mr. Harry Van Deusen, and Mrs. John M. Hamilton are working as a team for observing and noting the effects which occur when beaver move into a pond with a bog and build their dams. In addition to the written observations, this study will include extensive photographic record as well.

With the increase of beaver in our State, this should prove to be a very interesting study.

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